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Assembly California Legislature

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June 24, 2010

Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger Governor State Capitol Sacramento, Ca 95814

Re: Request to Prohibit Registration of Methyl Iodide for Use in California

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

Wc, the undersigned members of the California State Legislature, appeal to you to assert your authority as Governor and prohibit the registration of the pesticide methyl iodide (MeI) for use as a soil fumigant in California.

Dr. John Froines, Chair of the independent Scientific Review Committee (SRC), and commissioned by the California Department of Pesticide Regulations (DPR), described MeI as "without question, one of the most toxic chemicals on earth." He added that that broad use of this chemical in agriculture "will guarantee substantial releases to air, surface waters and groundwater, and will result in exposures for many people." Additionally, the National Academy of Sciences, including 6 Nobel Laureates, concluded that MeI poses significant and life threatening risks.

Methyl iodide is a proven carcinogen, neurotoxin, thyroid toxicant, endocrine disruptor, water contaminant and miscarriage inducer. The proposed mitigation protocols recommended by the DPR are based on insufficient data and rely upon erroneous assumptions of actual field, weather, and work conditions.

Members of the SRC have identified a number of areas in the DPR risk assessment reports and proposed mitigation standards that are not supported by either sufficient scientific study or assessment of actual field conditions.

Methyl iodide is not only deadly but unnecessary. Non-toxic alternatives to methyl iodide already exist. For decades, organic growers have been growing to scale using methods such as crop rotation, selective breeding, biological controls, and solarization.

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger June 24, 2010 Page Two

As a Governor who has demonstrated a commitment to environmental protection and who is charged with the protection of the public's health and safety, we strongly encourage you to exercise your executive authority to prohibit the registration of methyl iodide permanently or pending further appropriate scientific study.

Thank you for your consideration. Illiam W. Monning Assembly nember, 27th District Senator, 16th cc: Mary Ann Warmerdam, Director California Department of Pesticide Regulation seldaña Seldaña

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